

In Brief

AMBITION CAN'T WAIT

Introducing the new cohort
of Aspire Scholars

From women in STEM to future health professionals, the new cohort of 14 sophomore Aspire Scholars is made up of talented artists, researchers, and active volunteers, many of whom serve as peer leaders and tutors at Drexel and in the broader community.

The Center for Scholar Development's Aspire Scholars program is designed to provide promising, curious, and motivated Drexel undergraduates an opportunity to further develop and clarify their goals, within a small community of peers and with guidance from alumni in their field(s) of interest.

The idea for Aspire Scholars grew out of the mentor/mentee relationship held by Leslee Voss Geltzer, an Honors College advisory board member, and environmental science major Vincent O'Leary. Geltzer assisted O'Leary during his fellowship application process, serving as an objective voice, and helping Vincent articulate his experiences in an informed and succinct way.

This year's cohort includes:

- **Blessing Adogame** was born in Nigeria and raised in Germany and Scotland, co-founded the FreshWomen Cohort Program, an initiative in the College of Computing and Informatics (CCI) to actively engage incoming students.
- Computer Engineering student **Jacob Baron**, a former STAR Scholar (one of 6 in the cohort) is currently serving as an Undergraduate Research Leader, mentoring other students about research benefits.
- All the world's a stage for psychology student **Vida Manalang**, who performed as Anne Frank in Drexel Co-Op Theatre Company's recent production of *The Diary of Anne Frank*.
- Information Systems student **Antigone Bellanich** plays bassoon in Drexel's concert band and clarinet in the pep band.



SUPER SCHOLAR: AYUSH PARIKH

The junior biological sciences student with minors in art history and business administration is mastering the art of undergraduate research

- 1st place for poster presentation in the undergraduate session at the Drexel University College of Medicine Discovery Day Fall 2017
- 2nd place for undergraduate poster presentation at the American Society for Cell Biology and European Molecular Biology Organization 2017 Annual Research Meeting
- Publication of the *Virapocalypse bacteriophage* genome in Genbank publications. This project was performed through the SEA-PHAGES program in the Biology department over the 2015-2016 academic year with the goal of isolating, characterizing, and annotating new bacteriophages.